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Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6406th meeting

Wednesday, 20 October 2010, 11.10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Rugunda	(Uganda)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Ebner
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Dunlop
	China	Mr. Du Xiaocong
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Japan	Mr. Kodama
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Puente
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey
	United States of America	Ms. Anderson

Agenda

The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (S/2010/529)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (S/2010/529)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of the Central African Republic and Chad, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Gambi (Central African Republic) and Mr. Allam-mi (Chad) took seats at the Council table.

The President: On behalf of the Security Council, I wish to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Antoine Gambi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophonie of the Central African Republic.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Mahmoud to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2010/529, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad. I also wish to draw members' attention to a letter dated 7 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, contained in document S/2010/470.

In addition, I wish to draw members' attention to photocopies of a letter dated 12 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic and a letter dated 15 October from the Permanent Representative of Chad, which will be issued as documents S/2010/530 and S/2010/536, respectively.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, to whom I now give the floor.

Mr. Mahmoud: I thank the members of the Council for this renewed opportunity to brief them on the situation in Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic. As you mentioned, Sir, the Council has before it the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/529) on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT).

During the period covered by the report, the security situation in eastern Chad remained calm. The exceptionally intense rainy season reduced all road movements in MINURCAT's area of operations. It thus noticeably curtailed opportunities for acts of banditry, which, however, remain the main security threat to the population and to aid organizations in eastern Chad.

The Chadian-Sudanese Joint Border Monitoring Force can also be credited with this relative calm. With the planned increase of 1,000 personnel, the Force will reach a strength of 4,000 and offers, in my view, concrete hopes for improved effectiveness of the three-tier security system that the Chadian Government outlined in the paper it submitted to the Council in September. The Council may recall that the first tier of this system pertains to the protection of the Chad-Sudan border; the second covers the main villages beyond the border and the third covers refugee camps, internally displaced persons (IDPs) sites and surrounding villages. It is this last level that has been entrusted to the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS).

Notwithstanding the improved security, the humanitarian situation in Chad remains of concern. In order to assist and protect 262,000 refugees from the Sudan and 68,000 from the Central African Republic, as well as 168,000 internally displaced persons, 48,000 returnees and an estimated 150,000 host community members, there are eight United Nations agencies, funds and programmes operational in Chad, as well as 70 non-governmental organizations, helping the Government to address the situation.

Some IDP returns have been reported, mainly in the Ouaddaï and Dar Sila regions. The Government is fully aware that the absence of basic services in areas of return must be overcome to encourage further returns. A national strategy for the safe and voluntary return of IDPs is under preparation, with the help of the United Nations country team.

The Government of Chad has pursued its efforts to meet its international obligations in the area of the protection of civilians, as outlined and detailed in the Secretary-General's report. In the area of human rights, the Ministry of Human Rights and Promotion of Liberties, with support from MINURCAT, is establishing mechanisms for the implementation of the out come of the Universal Periodic Review and the Treaty bodies' recommendations. The Government is also finalizing a human rights national action plan, which takes into account the recommendations emerging from the Universal Periodic Review. In addition, the Government is leading the European Union-funded Programme d'appui à la justice au Tchad, which supports the construction and rehabilitation of judicial infrastructure, capacity-building activities and improved access to justice.

As is also outlined in the Secretary-General's report, during this reporting period MINURCAT continued the consolidation and gradual handover to the Government of Chad of all administrative, logistical and operational support to the DIS. By the end of this month, all administrative tasks will be transferred to the DIS. By the end of the year, the ongoing recruitment and training of the additional 200 new DIS recruits will be completed, bringing DIS strength to 1,000.

Meanwhile, earlier this month, the Government of Chad updated the DIS sustainability plan it had submitted to the Security Council in September. The updated plan outlines the financial and other needs to enhance the Government's capacity to support the DIS after MINURCAT departs. The Special Representative of the President of Chad for MINURCAT is currently in New York and will present the plan to potential partners and engage in a conversation with them concerning it.

In the meantime, Chad has initiated discussions with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme on a successor arrangement to the DIS trust fund currently managed by MINURCAT, as well as for the provision of technical support.

On 11 October, after the report was issued, the Government of Chad organized the second humanitarian forum, with assistance from MINURCAT and the United Nations country team. The forum deepened the discussion on the concept and practice of the protection of civilians and the roles and responsibilities of the main stakeholders. Participants acknowledged that the physical, legal and social dimensions of protection should all be equally taken into consideration in the development of a national strategy for the protection of civilians. Participants also recognized the central contribution of the DIS. Five other such forums will be organized before the end of MINURCAT's mandate.

On 15 October, MINURCAT's military component suspended all operational activities and the Mission started its final withdrawal from Chad, as mandated by resolution 1923 (2010). Every effort is being made to complete this withdrawal by 31 December. In this regard, I wish to express my appreciation to the Government of Chad for helping to ensure that the withdrawal takes place in an orderly, secure and dignified manner and with as few impediments as possible.

To assist the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic to enhance their capacity for the protection of civilians, MINURCAT is planning to leave to the Governments camp sites in accordance with standing United Nations rules and regulations. These camps will be minimally operational, including facilities for water and electricity.

The Government and the United Nations country team are doing their best to take over as many possible of MINURCAT's tasks relating to the protection of civilians and early recovery in order to ensure their

continuity. It should be recognized, however, that they cannot take on additional tasks within available resources. Notwithstanding the withdrawal of MINURCAT, it is essential that the international community continue to provide and step up its support to the Government and the United Nations country team.

In an effort to assist the Chadian staff of MINURCAT to find new employment within the country after the Mission's departure and to mitigate the negative impact on the country's job market of that departure, the Mission organized a job fair from 4 to 8 October. A good number of United Nations agencies, private companies, diplomat representations and others interviewed nearly 550 of our staff.

(*spoke in French*)

As described in the Secretary-General's report, the security situation in the north-eastern Central African Republic remains volatile and worrisome. Given MINURCAT's imminent withdrawal and the limited capacity of the Government of the Central African Republic to ensure security in that subregion, the alleged or confirmed attacks by elements associated with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are of concern. Several additional attacks, allegedly also perpetrated by elements associated with the LRA, have taken place in the MINURCAT area of operations since the Secretary-General's report was issued.

The most recent attack took place on 10 October. Between 40 and 50 men attacked Birao, not far from MINURCAT bases. They pillaged the village and kidnapped 19 individuals. Among the kidnapped, four children were immediately released, nine escaped not long after have been seized, and six more escaped during the 11 October clash between a local self-defence group and the attackers. It is believed that four adults currently remain captive.

In order to avoid a potential security vacuum following MINURCAT's withdrawal, we must do our utmost to help the Government of the Central African Republic to deploy additional forces to Birao. For its part, MINURCAT plans in mid-November to hand over its camps in Birao and the airport to the national authorities.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the countries contributing troops and police to MINURCAT and to commend the work of the men and women of the Mission who, despite its drawdown, continue to do their best to implement the mandate conferred upon them by the Security Council.

The President: I thank Mr. Mahmoud for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Antoine Gambi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophonie of the Central African Republic.

Mr. Gambi (Central African Republic) (*spoke in French*): On 10 August, the Security Council met (see S/PV.6371) to consider the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/409) on the drawdown of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). That report announced the withdrawal of the Mission on 31 December 2010. We meet here today to consider the Secretary-General's penultimate report (S/2010/529), which should focus our attention on the issue of MINURCAT's disengagement.

I should like first to convey to you, Sir, the congratulations of my delegation on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I should also like to commend Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for MINURCAT, who has given us an exhaustive briefing on the situation on the ground. Finally, I wish to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the report before us, which will allow Council members to undertake deliberations aimed at attaining concrete results.

MINURCAT's mandate will come to an end on 31 December. The Central African defence and security forces will ensure the changeover from international forces for the continued operations to prevent a security vacuum in the north-east of the territory.

The case is similar with regard to concerns raised by the attacks of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels, which initially ravaged the south-east of the country but are now in the north-east, in Birao. Today, four prefectures of the Central African Republic are victims of LRA violence. That terrorist group sows the seeds of desolation among the population by pillaging, raping, massacring and burning down villages as they move through an area, resulting in thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees.

On 13 and 14 October 2010, on the initiative of the African Union, a regional ministerial meeting on

the activities of the LRA took place in Bangui to seek ways and means to eradicate that phenomenon in the countries that are affected — the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic — as well as South Sudan. In that connection, the Central African Government will deploy a battalion of 500 personnel to Birao. That deployment will be gradual, continuing through to 31 December 2010.

Unfortunately, the Central African armed forces desperately lack materiel and equipment to complete their mission, which is to ensure the security of people and goods, refugees, displaced persons and humanitarian workers in the region. Thus the Central African Republic requests the support of friendly nations and the international community in order to bolster the operational capacity of the Central African armed forces as well as of its security and defence forces so that they can fully play their role. To that end, a needs assessment was sent to the Council. Furthermore, the Central African Republic is currently taking steps with neighbouring States to reactivate existing accords for joint patrols along common border areas.

To us, the withdrawal of MINURCAT seems to be a new opportunity to support the efforts for security sector reform in the Central African Republic. If the stationing of peacekeeping forces has had a limited effectiveness over time, it is important and logical that the gains be consolidated within the framework of arrangements for strengthening the capacities of local forces. That is why I repeat here the Central African Republic's position that was set out at the Council's last meeting on this matter (see S/PV.6371). We believe that the return of logistical means and installations used by MINURCAT to the Central African forces and their operational supervisory staff will allow us to accelerate the process. The President of the Republic and head of State, Army General François Bozizé, addressed a letter to the Secretary-General along these lines at the beginning of 2010.

The security situation in the north-east and the south-east of the Central African Republic calls to the international community, which has always been at my country's side. Help us to take up those responsibilities in order to ensure our security.

That is why that we place a great deal of hope on the pertinent decisions that will come from the Council with regard to the report now before it.

The President: I thank Foreign Minister Gambi for his statement. I now give the floor to the representative of Chad.

Mr. Allam-mi (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I would like to be brief. Let me start, Mr. President, by congratulating you upon your accession to the presidency of the Security Council for the month of October. Allow me also to greet the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central African Republic, our brother and great friend, General Antoine Gambi.

Regarding the report on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) (S/2010/529), presented for our consideration by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General — whom we welcome here today — we shall refrain from making any observations or any comments. However, allow me to reiterate our commitment and our resolve to efficiently fulfil our mission, namely, to protect civilians, particularly refugees and displaced persons, through to their voluntary return to their places of origin.

In that regard, and pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1923 (2010), dated 25 May 2010, we have just submitted to the Council an updated plan to make permanent the Détachement Intégré de Sécurité (DIS). The implementation of that plan will enable the DIS to ensure continued security in the refugee camps, displaced persons sites and surrounding areas, as well as to provide security escorts and uphold security in the area as a whole, in coordination with the national Gendarmerie and the National and Nomad Guard of Chad.

We have always stressed the need for the international community to ensure that the special trust fund should remain after MINURCAT's withdrawal to meet the needs of the DIS, which is — we have repeated this on numerous occasions — a pilot force, which, as we like to say, is the pride of the United Nations and Chad.

Therefore, allow me to submit for the Council's consideration a few figures. For 2011, our plan for making the DIS permanent has a budget covering operations and logistics in the amount of 10,039,215,680 CFA francs, or $21,561,472. The Special Representative of the President of the Republic to MINURCAT will meet informally with the Council. He will be able to explain the plan better than I, and, through the Council, will launch an appeal to the

international community to continue its efforts alongside Chad to help refugees and displaced persons in the east of our country.

We count on the Council's diligence to ensure that it not lose sight of the noble mission of protecting civilians, something that it is has constantly reminded us of. Indeed, we count on the Council and on each of its members, who bear the responsibility, in keeping with the demands they make of us, to ensure that after the complete withdrawal of MINURCAT the international community continues to assist us in fulfilling our humanitarian mission.

Finally, I cannot conclude without reiterating our full cooperation with the United Nations in the discharge of its noble mission for peace in our country and in the subregion.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.